

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

POWERDSINE, INC., ET AL.,) Case No.: C 08-80154 JW(PVT)
Plaintiffs,)
v.)
AMI SEMICONDUCTOR, INC., ET AL.,)
Defendants.)
)

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING
IN PART THIRD-PARTIES BROADCOM, INC.
AND SHIMON ELKAYAM'S MOTION TO
QUASH, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR A
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

On August 11, 2008, Petitioners and third parties Broadcom Corporation and Shimon Elkayam moved to quash, or in the alternative, for a protective order, the deposition and document subpoena served on Mr. Elkayam by Respondent and Plaintiff PowerDsine. Respondent PowerDsine opposed the motion. On September 23, 2008 the parties appeared before Magistrate Judge Patricia V. Trumbull to argue the motion.¹

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petitioners' motion to quash, or in the alternative, for a protective order, regarding the deposition and document subpoena to Mr. Elkayam for information

¹ On September 23, 2008, the court in the underlying action ruled that third party discovery served on Petitioners is timely because the subpoena was served prior to the August 28, 2009 discovery cut-off. *See Declaration of Mark Yocca Regarding Status Report of the September 23, 2008 Pre-Motion Conference Before Judge Scheindlin, Exh. A, at 16.*

1 regarding his employment at PowerDsine prior to December 2005 is DENIED.² The parties shall
2 meet and confer to determine a mutually agreeable date and time to conduct the deposition. *See Civ.*
3 L. R. 30-1. The deposition will last no longer than seven hours.

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petitioners' motion to quash, or in the alternative, for a
5 protective order, regarding the deposition and document subpoena to Mr. Elkayam for information
6 regarding his employment post-December 2005 and Broadcom's trade secrets and confidential
7 information relating to features of its Power-over-Ethernet BCM5910x products is GRANTED.

8 Mr. Elkayam and Broadcom are not parties to the underlying action. Prior to December
9 2005, Mr. Elkayam was employed by PowerDsine in Israel. Mr. Elkayam became employed at
10 Broadcom after December 2005. PowerDsine has failed to establish the relevance of Mr. Elkayam's
11 employment post-December 2005. While Rule 45 does not specify lack of relevance as a reason to
12 quash a subpoena, "courts have incorporated relevance as a factor when determining motions to
13 quash a subpoena." *Moon v. SCP Pool Corp.*, 232 F.R.D. 633, 637 (C.D. Cal. 2005). Under Rule
14 45(c)(3)(A), "[a]n evaluation of undue burden requires the court to weigh the burden to the
15 subpoenaed party against the value of the information to the serving party[.]" *Id.* (quoting *Travelers*
16 *Indem. Co.*, 228 F.R.D. 111, 113 (D.Conn. 2005)). This includes a consideration of relevance. *Id.*

17 Further, when non-parties are involved, lack of relevance is a sufficient basis to quash the
18 subpoena under Rule 45. *See Moon v. SCP Pool Corp.*, 232 F.R.D. 633, 637 (C.D. Cal. 2005). Non-
19 parties enjoy “greater protection from discovery than normal parties;” thus, discovery requests
20 “require a stronger showing of relevance than for simple party discovery.” *Laxalt v. McClatchy*, 116
21 F.R.D. 455, 457-58 (D. Nev. 1986). The explanation proffered by PowerDsine is merely
22 speculative. It has failed to demonstrate how Broadcom’s internal development of its products, Mr.
23 Elkayam’s alleged involvement in the development of Broadcom’s products, or Broadcom’s internal
24 communications with Mr. Elkayam while employed at Broadcom are relevant to the alleged claims
25 in the underlying action. PowerDsine has made no efforts to tailor the deposition and document
26 subpoena post-December 2005 “to the immediate needs of the case.” *See Mattel, Inc. v. Walking*

² The holding of this Court is limited to the facts and the particular circumstances underlying the present motion.

¹ *Mountain Prods.*, 353 F.3d 792, 813-14 (9th Cir. 2003). Accordingly, the subpoena is unduly burdensome. *Id.*

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent PowerDsine's Request for Leave to File
4 Surreply is DENIED.

5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6 || Dated: *October 1, 2008*

Patricia V. Trumbull

PATRICIA V. TRUMBULL
United States Magistrate Judge